

administration and servicing of all student loans beginning in July 2010.

The assumption of complete responsibility for providing federally-backed loans to students by the Department of Education Direct Loan, DL, program presents very real risks of job losses and ends the reliable administration and servicing of student loans at the more than 4,000 schools that are not currently enrolled in the DL program, including most colleges and universities in South Dakota. While a number of these schools have begun exploring a transition to DL with the Department of Education, the risks of a possible disruption in students' ability to access student loans is very real during the rapid transition of these 4,000 schools to DL by July 10, 2010. Further, we do not want to put undue resource burdens on schools and States that are already facing increased budgetary pressures during this economic downturn.

While the bill does present potential opportunities for some lenders in South Dakota, overall, the possible downsides of the bill for South Dakota are substantial, and what's more, I believe they could be addressed in this legislation while preserving the goal of increasing financial assistance for higher education. Thus, while I fully support the goal of finding savings within the current student loan program to provide students with much-needed increases in federal financial aid for higher education, I cannot support today's bill, which I believe should be improved before being passed by the House.

As the legislative process moves forward in the Senate, I will continue to work towards a bill that achieves significant increase in financial assistance for students seeking higher education, that preserves jobs for South Dakotans, and ensures our students receive the specialized attention and information needed to make the best choices for funding their higher education.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on September 16, 2009, I would have voted as follows: rollcall #704: "yes"; rollcall #705: "yes"; rollcall #706: "yes"; rollcall #707: "yes"; rollcall #708: "no"; rollcall #709: "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 620, I am recorded as voting "aye". That was not my intention. It was my intention to vote "no" on the Hensarling Amendment.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009.

This legislation will make a college education more accessible to young Americans. Through initiatives such as a \$40 billion investment in Pell Grants, the number of people eligible for a Pell Grant award greatly increases as does the monetary allotment associated with the award. Under this legislation over \$85.4 million will be invested in our district to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019. In the 2010–2011 academic year 18,184 students in our district will be eligible for a Pell Grant award.

This bill will also help make a college education more accessible and affordable to Americans by streamlining the FAFSA student aid application. The simplification of the FAFSA form will help provide needed support to the growing number of families applying for student aid by allowing them to use the information on their tax returns to verify their eligibility.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act also sets in motion a five-year initiative aimed at improving college access and completion support programs through the College Access and Completion Fund, resulting in at least \$14.1 million a year for the next five years in Texas. The increased funding is to be used towards providing students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with the support they need to stay in school and graduate despite obstacles, particularly those of a financial nature.

For students who need further financial assistance, this legislation increases the availability of Perkins Loans, and increases the reliability and affordability of federal student loans through the Direct Loan program.

In addition to making education more affordable, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 aims to improve the quality of higher education in the United States. One of the main components of the bill I am excited about is the major investment in our local community colleges. In 2007, over 497,500 students were enrolled in Texas community colleges, and this bill will help to increase the effectiveness and impact of community colleges in our area by continuing to develop first-rate affordable education right here in our district, which, in turn, will help build our workforce and community.

H.R. 3221 not only focuses on higher learning, but also childhood education by establishing an Early Learning Challenge Fund. Over the next two years, Texas will receive more than \$359.4 million to develop schools that equip every child with access to a world-class learning environment.

I strongly believe in the power of education, and am proud to support this legislation that increases individuals access to higher education, improves the quality of that education, and helps to develop a skilled workforce, while reducing the deficit.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JILL SHACKELFORD

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, during my years of serving in Congress, the Kansas City, Kansas, public schools have had two excellent superintendents. When Dr. Ray Daniels retired in 2005, he was succeeded by Dr. Jill Shackelford, assistant superintendent of schools, who became USD 500's first female superintendent. Although the Kansas City, Kansas, school district faces the same formidable challenges as other urban districts, one great advantage is the stable leadership it has enjoyed. Other districts in our area have had frequent changes of leadership and vision. The KCK School District has continued to pursue an effective and visionary course, made possible by the "First Things First" program funded by the Kauffman Foundation. This comprehensive school reform program has brought about heartening improvements in student performance and test scores.

We will miss Dr. Shackelford's warm and caring personality, but I am sure that the KCK Schools will choose another fine leader to succeed her. I am including with this statement a recent Kansas City Star article detailing Dr. Shackelford's announcement.

[From the Kansas City Star, Aug. 11, 2009]
KCK SUPERINTENDENT, AN ADVOCATE FOR URBAN STUDENTS, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT
(By Dawn Bormann)

Kansas City, Kan., School District Superintendent Jill Shackelford—who has been a leading voice for urban, at-risk Kansas students—announced Tuesday that she would retire in June.

And it is fair to say that the district's first woman superintendent has left her mark. Students know her as the "lady in pink" who proudly wears pink shoes, pink skirts and a rhinestone lapel pin that spells "believe" in capital letters. Shackelford, a former reading teacher, praises their accomplishments and passes out hugs with the nurturing style of an elementary school teacher.

Education officials know her as the leader of a low-income district that led the charge for free all-day kindergarten and posted double-digit gains in assessments. The changes have stood out at least in part because 83 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch.

When Shackelford, 65, started five years ago, some casually mentioned that she might want to tone down her wardrobe and her feminine approach.

"You know you're the first female, so don't act too female-ish," she said, recalling that advice. "I was told to get into your closet and dig out all your black suits."

It lasted a few weeks. Shackelford had already survived Stage 3 breast cancer. She didn't need to wear black to prove herself, she said.

"Out came the pink. Out came my personality, and I was able to relax," Shackelford said.